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TENNESSEE FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION
MINUTES – APRIL 27, 2018
Region II – Ray Bell Building
Nashville

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Codes:

A – Official Action

D- Discussion Item

The Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission April meeting was held in Nashville at the Region II - Ray Bell Building. At approximately 9 a.m. on Friday, April 27, 2018, Chairman Jeff Cook called the commission meeting to order.

Chairman Cook asked Commissioner Bill Cox to give the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Roll Call was taken on Friday, April 27 and the following commissioners were present:

Angie Box
Bill Cox
Kurt Holbert
Connie King
James Stroud
Bill Swan
Brian McLerran
Tony Sanders
Jeff Cook

Roll call verified; a quorum was present.

A3935
Approval of Minutes

Chairman Cook asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the March 21, 2018 commission meeting held in Nashville. Commissioner Bill Swan made a motion to approve the minutes as presented and motion was seconded by Commissioner Brian McLerran. A vote was taken – all ayes – minutes passed.

Chairman Cook welcomed the following special guests: Boyd Barker – Tennessee Department of Agriculture, and Ron Crabtree – Quail Forever.

A visitors' sign-up sheet was passed around the room on Friday, April 27, 2018 and the following were present:

Ron Crabtree – Quail Forever – Murfreesboro
Boyd Barker – Tenn. Dept. of Ag. – Nashville
Jeffrey Howell – Delta Waterfowl Foundation – Memphis
Ed Williams – McMinn County

D2743
Meritorious Service Award

A special meritorious award was presented to Richard Markland, a Region IV wildlife fisheries technician for his actions to save a fisherman from drowning in the South Holston River earlier this year.

D2744
TWRA Retirements

Legal counsel Sheryl Holtam and her husband, Raleigh, who serves as the editor of TWRA's magazine and handles other publications and graphics, are each retiring at the end of June and were recognized for their many years of service.

Human Resources Director Rick Pharris, who is retiring in mid-May, was also recognized. He came to the Agency in late 2013. New HR Director Randi Tarpy was introduced to the TFWC. She comes to the agency from the Board of Parole where she was HR chief.

D2745
Delta Waterfowl Foundation
Missions and Programs

Delta Waterfowl Foundation's Jeffrey Howell discussed the missions and programs for the organization in the United States and Canada.

Mr. Howell presented a 2018 funding proposal for perpetual wetland easement protection in Manitoba, Canada. Further discussion from the commission regarding the proposal will be brought to the next meeting as a possible budget expansion.

D2746
Buffalo Ridge Refuge
Presentation

Donald Hosse, TWRA Education Outreach Coordinator, presented a video and information about the activities at Buffalo Ridge Refuge. The Humphreys County property has over 2,000 acres and has long been a site for TWRA outreach programs. Plans call for continued improvement in regard to facilities. More agency activities have taken place since it became a TWRA property in 2016.

D2747
Audit Committee Report

Rick Pharris, Human Resources Chief, stated that the Human Rights Commission reviewed the Agency's Title VI program and there were no findings in that audit.

A3936
Budget Expansion FY18 -
Chronic Wasting Disease
(CWD) Storage Freezers

Col. Darren Rider, Boating and Law Enforcement Chief, presented a budget expansion FY18 in the amount of \$168,000 to purchase CWD storage freezers. Funds will be utilized for the procurement of eight (8) walk-in freezers; one for each law enforcement district.

Committee Chairman Tony Sanders made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded. A vote was taken – all ayes. Budget expansion passed in committee.

Committee Chairman Tony Sanders made a motion to approve budget expansion FY18 in the amount of \$168,000. The motion was seconded. A vote was taken – all ayes – passed in commission.

D2748
Financial Report

Ken Tarkington, Budget and Procurement Chief, presented the closing figures through the end of February 2017 and responded to questions.

D2749
Legislative Update

Chris Richardson, Legislative Liaison/Assistant Director, stated that the 110th General Assembly had concluded for the year. The agency and commission had a successful legislative session. 1) Passed our sunset legislation which reauthorized as a commission for another four years; 2) Passed our budget as proposed; 3) Commission has authority to promulgate rules and regulations; 4) Authority for commission to address conflicts on our rivers and waterways; and 5) Authority for commission to address issues between fishermen, recreational paddlers and the access problems on our rivers.

Assistant Director Bobby Wilson announced that on May 23, 2018, there will be a dedication at the Whites Landing Fishing Pier on Reelfoot Lake to honor the late Shane Hall of the Moment of Freedom Campaign.

The next meeting will be in Nashville at the Region II Ray Bell Building. TFWC committee meetings will be held on Thursday, May 17, 2018 and the TFWC commission meeting will begin at 9 a.m. on Friday, May 18, 2018.

The meeting adjourned at 11:28 a.m.
dw

Respectfully submitted,

_____, Secretary
Ed Carter, Executive Director
Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency

Jeff Cook, M.D., Chairman
Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission